

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant has received the Office action dated February 4, 2008, which: 1) rejects claims 1-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as allegedly unpatentable; and 2) objects to claims 9, 12, 13, and 19 for various formalities.

With this Response, Applicant addresses the merits of the Office action, amends claim 12 and 13, and adds new claims 29-44.¹ Therefore, after entry of this Response, claims 1-44 remain pending.

A. Claim Objections

The Office action rejects claims 9, 12, 13, and 19 for various formalities. Specifically, the Office action rejects claims 12 and 13² for reciting the language “such as capacitors.” Applicant hereby amends claims 12 and 13 to more clearly state that the recited large components include capacitors. Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter is added by these amendments.

The Office action rejects claim 9 for reciting “substantially perpendicular” because, according to the Office action, things are “either perpendicular or not.” Similarly, the Office action rejects claim 19 for reciting “generally parallel” because, according to the Office action, things are “either parallel or not.” Applicant respectfully traverses these objections.

First, it is not entirely clear to the Applicant what the statutory or regulatory basis the Office action relies on to make these objections. Applicant is unaware of any prohibition in using the terms “substantially” or “generally” to modify other claim terms and respectfully requests that the statutory or regulatory basis for these objections be made of record.

¹ Support for the claim additions is found at least at page 13, line 14 through page 14, line 15. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter is added by the new claims.

² The Office action at page 8 line 2 cites that “claim 12, and 12” are rejected. Applicants interpret this as a typographical error that should read “claim 12 and 13”.

Second, Applicant respectfully disagrees that things cannot be “substantially perpendicular” or “generally parallel.” According to the Office action, this is so because things are either perpendicular and/or parallel or not. The flaw in this false dichotomy can be seen by looking at exemplary definitions of these terms. Webster’s dictionary defines substantially as “being largely but not wholly that which is specified.” Perpendicular is defined by Webster’s dictionary as “being at right angles to a given line.” See e.g., www.m-w.com. Thus, two items may be “substantially perpendicular” if their angular intersection is at least largely but not wholly at a right angle. Similarly, Webster’s dictionary defines parallel as “extending in the same direction, everywhere equidistant, and not meeting” and generally as “in disregard of specific instances and with regard to an overall picture.” See e.g., www.m-w.com. Therefore, two items may be “generally parallel” if they extend in the same direction and are equidistant from each other in an overall sense.

For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully requests that the objections to claims 9 and 19 be withdrawn.

B. The Cited References Do Not Teach or Suggest the Snubber Circuit Providing Power from the Transformer to the Power Conversion Circuitry As Required by the Claims

The Office action rejects claims 1-28 as allegedly rendered obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103 by U.S. Patent Number 6,278,470 to *Pollutro* in view of U.S. Pat. Number 6,259,218 to *Kovach et al.* Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections because the cited references do not teach or suggest all of the claim limitations.

For example, independent claim 1 requires “a snubber circuit ... wherein the snubber circuit provides power absorbed from the transformer to the power conversion circuitry.” The Office action cites *Pollutro* as allegedly teaching a snubber circuit that provides power absorbed from the transformer to the power conversion circuitry at page 2. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Pollutro may use the phrase “snubber circuit” at column 4, line 37, but the snubber circuit 23, 24 of *Pollutro* simply does not provide power back to the power conversion circuitry as required by claim 1. In fact, the snubber circuit 23, 24 does nothing with the power absorbed from the transformer. For example, Fig. 1B shows resistor 23 and capacitor 24 (the snubber circuit of *Pollutro*) terminating at ground; there simply is no feedback anywhere or mention of a reason why this would be beneficial. Kovach *et al.* does not appear to remedy this deficiency with regard to *Pollutro*. Indeed, it is hard to see why *Pollutro* would be modified to read on this claim requirement given that one of the stated goals of *Pollutro* is to absorb energy and high frequency oscillations (col. 4, lines 39-40). In other words, *Pollutro* seeks to remove energy from the circuitry and not increase the amount of energy. For at least this reason claim 1, and its dependent claims (2-25), are allowable over the cited art.

Independent claim 26 contains the snubber circuit limitations akin to those described above with regard to independent claim 1, and therefore, claim 26 and its dependent claims (27 and 28) are allowable over the cited art for at least this reason.

It should be noted that Applicant’s focus on the independent claims should not be interpreted as a concession by Applicant as to the dependent claim rejections contained in the Office action. In fact, as shown above, the dependent claims are allowable over the art of record for at least the same reason as the independent claims.

C. Conclusion

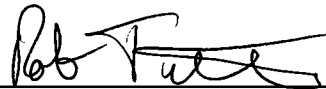
In the course of the foregoing discussions, Applicant may have at times referred to claim limitations in shorthand fashion, or may have focused on a particular claim limitation. This discussion should not be interpreted to mean that the other limitations can be ignored or dismissed. The claims must be viewed as a whole, and each limitation of the claims must be considered when determining the patentability of the claims.

Appl. No. 10/687,731
Amdt. dated: May 5, 2008
Reply to Office action of February 4, 2008

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. It is believed that no extensions of time or fees are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to 04-1415.

Dated this 5th day of May 2008.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rob Tuttle", is written over a horizontal line.

Robert M. Tuttle, Reg. No. 54,504
Dorsey & Whitney LLP
ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANT
USPTO Customer No. 20686